

Social Security

How We Decide
If You Are Still
Disabled



www.ssa.gov

How We Decide If You Are Still Disabled

Usually, you are reading this leaflet because you received a letter telling you we're going to review your disability. The Social Security law requires that we review all disability cases from time to time to make sure people continue to be disabled. If your health has not improved, or if your disability still keeps you from working, you will continue to receive your benefits.

Here is what we plan to do.

We Will Gather The Facts

To help us make our decision, we will gather information about your health.

- We will ask your doctors, hospitals, and clinics for reports about your health. We will ask them how your health problems limit your activities, what medical tests show and what medical treatments you have been given.
- If we need more medical information, we will ask you to go for a special examination or test at no cost to you. We will write to you about the time and place for this test.
- We will add this new medical information to the information you gave us about your health.

We Will Review Your Disability

Next, we will look at what your medical condition was when we last reviewed your case. We also will look at any new health problems you may have.

- We will check whether your health has improved. If it has, we will see if you might be able to work.
- We also will look to see if your overall health affects the kind of work you can do. This includes the work you did in the past and any other kind of work you might be able to do now.

What Will Happen To Your Benefits

Your benefits generally will continue **unless any of the following situations are true in your case.**

- New or improved medical tests show that you are not as disabled as you were when we reviewed your case in the past. These tests also must show us that you now can work.
- You have benefited from vocational training or advances in medical treatment or vocational technology **and** you can work.
- We find that we made a mistake in our earlier decision.
- Without a good reason, you do not follow the treatment your doctor ordered and you probably could go back to work if you did.

- You gave us false and misleading information when we made our earlier decision.
- You are not cooperating in this review and you do not have a good reason for not cooperating.
- You are working and the work is both substantial and gainful. By “substantial,” we mean work involving significant physical or mental activity. “Gainful” means that the work is done for pay or profit. However, this situation will **not** affect Supplemental Security Income payments.

If any of the above situations exist, your benefits may stop.

If You Have Any Questions

If you have any questions about our plans to review your case, call or visit your local Social Security office. Be sure you have the letter that came with this leaflet with you.

Social Security Administration

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